My Thanks to the Department of Disinformation for Its Subsidy HW 7/10/75

Having heard from one of my sources that the National Enquirer was going to go for the McDonald book, not wanting this fakery to be given wide distribution among those who have already been regularly deceived and wanting to be a friend to those there who have been my friends, I phoned this a.m. to alert my friends that they might be getting into a fraud and some trouble.

Of those in authority there was only one I knew and I knew him by phoned.(He is the master of their garbagography dept.) Told him the story, very briefly and he asked if he could use my name with the right editor. Agreed to and instead of that editor the reporter on the story phoned me. Antagonist at first. I told him when he said there interest in McDonald I told that that was their affair and I hadm no interest in him. Only his book was really a fraud and they'd be a laughing stock if they were to use it. He then had an editor John Webb speak to me and I laid it out a little more fully. When he wanted me to act as their consultant I said I would but not without fee. He thought it over, phoned back with the reporter on the line just as I was rushing with Jim Lesar to get the deadline on the Opposition and the affidavit in C.A. 226-75 done so it could get to court before the end of the day. When I phoned back and explained again he was content. He said he'd give me $300 if I wrecked the McD book and I agreed. He said the reporter, Hayden Cameron, would call me back shortly. I suggested that Cameron be prepared to tape and to tape it all, that I thought their interest would be best served that way (inferring, of course, that I was prepared to stand on every word, but that my sources had to be protected as I'd insisted with each earlier. That this meant no word of what I'd obtained from them got out of the paper or to anyone who didn't have to know. Agreed.

I spent more than an hour taking the whole thing apart without completing it. When Cameron said he'd sued up the cassette I told him I'd wait while he got another. He said he'd be working on it right away, getting a transcript, and could he phone back tonight or tomoorw. I asked not after 9:30 because I'm tired and need sleep but I suggested that he have all the questions he wants written so he would forget none.

He was quite impressed and from the antagonistic he took a respectful tone. In part this was because there was such stupid stuff a kid should have caught it and he hand't, as he'd said.

I told him what was missing and what he would be told unless lied to and how I knew and who the witnesses were, by name. Even the unnamed characters andx how he could prove it and how the libel could not be eliminated. (Without named men.)

I wiil proposed what I suggested, a story debunking the fake and fakers. I thought later and decided to suggest a series on Disinformation operations.

Meanwhile, from the work I've done on this I've received 10% of what it will cost to print Post Mortem. It has been hard, with long hours and taxing needs. But it is income I've not had and it will go for this purpose.

Without this fraudulent book I'd not have had this.

Zebra Press has gone for it. Zacharias is described as the publisher. He and McDonald spent two days at Lantana under questioning which sold those characters! In an hour on the phone I undid it all.

Cameron asked me what to say when he told McD that I had done this to his book. I suggested that he say that one of the number of others on their staff who knew me referred him to me and that I'd gone into this by phone only. However, if McDonald wanted to arge or defend his book or disoute my representations I'd be happy to fly to Lantana if he would, if we'd confront and agree to limitless questioning by those independely selected by the Enquirer, that it be taped, and that there be no restrictions on any party on the use of the tapes. Cameron chuckled.

There is no chance McDonald will do this. But what fun if he is crazy enough!

What help to Post Mortem if he should agree.

And what help to his book if the Enquirer goes for the debunking!